

CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (thrice amended) A method of detecting the presence of an analyte of interest in a sample, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first surface having reversibly immobilised thereon a displaceable moiety, the displaceable moiety being immobilised on the first surface, said displaceable moiety having an affinity for the first surface lower than the affinity of the displaceable moiety for the analyte of interest;

exposing the first surface to a sample comprising the analyte of interest, whereby the analyte of interest specifically displaces the displaceable moiety from the first surface;

F1 causing the displaceable moiety displaced from the first surface to contact a second surface bearing a capture moiety which specifically binds to the displaceable moiety, so as to capture the displaceable moiety on the second surface, said capture generating a species capable of producing a detectable signal; and

treating the species capable of producing a detectable signal to generate said signal and detecting the signal; wherein said detection is performed by means other than Surface Plasmon Resonance, and wherein the detectable signal cannot be generated unless and until the displaceable moiety is captured on the second surface.

F2 7. (twice amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first surface comprises a plurality of intervening molecules which bind relatively loosely to the displaceable moiety, such that the binding affinity of the intervening molecules for the analyte of interest is greater than that of the displaceable moiety for the intervening molecules.